

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 2-5 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 19 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-25 remain pending in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original and any other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 7, 11 and 22 stand objected to based on certain informalities. Additionally, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the pending objection and rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6-10, 16 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Evans et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,054) ("Evans"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a content addressable memory comprising "[a] first current source [that] is responsive to a first bias current to supply a first current to the matchline and to [a] second current source. According to claim 1, the "second current source is responsive to a second bias current to supply a second current from the matchline to ground." Claim 1 further recites that "[the] first bias current [is] greater than [the] second bias current." Claims 10 and 21 recite similar limitations.

Evans refers to a sense amplifier having two transistors coupled to a matchline, each of which provide a current to the matchline. In other words, Evans simply discloses a sense amplifier having two current sources. Evans does not disclose or suggest a CAM having a "first current source [being] responsive to a first bias current to supply a first current to the matchline and to [a] second current source, and [the] second current source [being] responsive to a second bias current to supply a

second current from the matchline to ground.” Evans also fails to disclose or suggest a CAM such as the claimed invention where “[the] first bias current [is] greater than [the] second bias current.”

Therefore, Evans fails to disclose or suggest all limitations of claims 1, 10 and 21. Hence, claims 1, 10 and 21 should be allowable over the cited reference. Claims 6-9 depend from claim 1, and should be allowable along with claim 1. Claim 16 and 18-20 depend from claim 10 and should be allowable along with claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 11, 13-15, 17 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Kurihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,163) (“Kurihara”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11, 13-15 and 17 depend from claim 10 and thus recite similar limitations as described above. Claims 22-25 depend from claim 21 and likewise recite similar limitations as described above. For at least the reasons set forth above, Evans fails to teach or suggest the limitations of the inventions of claims 10 and 21. Evans fails to teach or suggest a processor system having a “first current source [being] responsive to a first bias current to supply a first current to the matchline and to [a] second current source, and [the] second current source [being] responsive to a second bias current to supply a second current from the matchline to ground,” as recited in claim 10. Evans also fails to disclose or suggest where “[the] first bias current [is] greater than [the] second bias current,” as recited in claim 10.

The Office Action seeks to cure the shortcomings of Evans by combining it with Kurihara, however, Kurihara does not cure the above-mentioned deficiencies. Kurihara does not teach or suggest a CAM comprising “[a] first current source [that] is

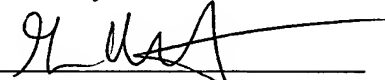
responsive to a first bias current to supply a first current to the matchline and to [a] second current source, and [the] second current source [being] responsive to a second bias current to supply a second current from the matchline to ground, [the] first bias current [being] greater than [the] second bias current."

Therefore, the cited combination of Evans and Kurihara fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious the limitations of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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